

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A cutting device comprising:  
  
a strip shaped metallic thin blade;  
  
a power supply that passes an electric current through the thin blade to cause the thin blade to heat; and  
  
a drive part that causes the thin blade to move in a thickness direction of a member to be cut.
  
2. (Original) The cutting device of claim 1, further comprising  
  
a non-contact thermometer that measures the temperature of the thin blade without contacting the thin blade, and  
  
a controller that controls the electric current passing through the thin blade on the basis of a temperature detection signal from the non-contact thermometer.
  
3. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the surface of the thin blade is coated with a low-friction material whose frictional resistance is less than that of the metal configuring the thin blade.

4. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, further comprising a tension applying part that applies tension to the thin blade.

5. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, further comprising a cutting condition changing part that enables a cutting angle and a diagonal angle to be changed wherein, the cutting angle is an angle formed between a line indicating the moving direction of the thin blade and a line orthogonal to the thickness direction of the member to be cut; and the diagonal angle is an inclination angle of the thin blade with respect to a direction orthogonal to a longitudinal direction of the member to be cut.

6. (Currently Amended) The cutting device of ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the thin blade is longer than the width of the member to be cut.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of cutting a member to be cut with a metallic strip shaped thin blade that has been heated, the method comprising:

passing an electric current through a thin blade that is longer than the width of the member to be cut to cause the thin blade to heat; and

moving the thin blade ~~[[moves]]~~ when cutting the member with a blade edge longitudinal direction that is slanted  $\theta b$  degrees with respect to a width direction orthogonal to a longitudinal direction of the member, and with the thin blade slanted at  $\theta a$  degrees with respect to a direction orthogonal to a thickness direction of the member.